

Canada Evidence Act

In an attempt to develop common rules of evidence that would apply to all the court proceedings, whether under the jurisdiction of the federal or the provincial Governments, the Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General in June, 1977, decided to approach the Uniform Law Conference of Canada to see whether it would be interested in acting as a non-partisan host for a project aimed at developing a uniform Evidence Act.

I should perhaps mention that the Uniform Law Conference of Canada is an independent body comprising legal experts from both the public and private sector. It was established to promote uniformity of legislation. The Deputy Ministers of Justice and the Deputy Attorneys General are *ex officio* members.

The Uniform Law Conference agreed to undertake this project, and in the fall of 1977 established a federal-provincial task force to study the laws of evidence, examine the recent reports on evidence by the Law Reform Commissions of Canada and Ontario and other recent reports and legislation in the area with a view to recommending uniform legislation. The task force, which was to complete its work and report back

within three years, submitted its final report and a draft act in January, 1981.

Unlike the evidence code of the Law Reform Commission of Canada, the task force report recommended a legislative statement that, though broadly comprehensive, left room for development of certain areas through the common law. In addition, the common law would continue to serve as a guide to interpreting the new legislation and less scope would be given to judicial discretion in the interpretation and application of the rules than was given under the Law of Reform Commission code.

The report of the task force was accompanied by a draft uniform evidence act. The report and draft act were considered at a series of special plenary sessions of the Uniform Law Conference held from April to July, 1981.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. It being six o'clock, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at eleven o'clock, pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 6 p.m., the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.